



Water Conservation

Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Measures

Proposed Amendments to Chapters 40E-24 & 40E-2, 40E-20, F.A.C. & Basis of Review for Water Use Applications

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Proposed District-wide Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule

- Statewide water conservation initiatives
- Expands existing rule to cover entire District
- Component of new Water Conservation Program
- Applies to landscape irrigation only
- Continuing public workshops & input



Proposed Rule: Existing Landscaping/Traditional Water Source

- Applies to all sources (wells, canals, utility)
- Irrigation permitted 2 days per week
- No irrigation between 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.



Proposed Rule: Alternative Water Sources

- Irrigation using other alternative water sources:
 - 3 days per week
 - Subject to 10 a.m.– 4 p.m. time limitation
- Outstanding issue – what % AWS qualifies?



Proposed Rule: Reclaimed Water

- Board direction in May
- 100% reclaimed: Any day of the week
 - Subject to 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. time limitation




Proposed Rule: Use of Supplemented Reclaimed Water

- Allows irrigation any day of the week if the reclaimed water is supplemented with:
 - Incidental stormwater runoff
 - Aquifer storage & recovery
 - Harvested rainwater
 - By-products from membrane treatment
 - Demonstrated as necessary to achieve full disposal of the reclaimed water supply
- Outstanding issue: if supplemented with traditional source water, what % applies?



General Summary of Public Comments

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- Impacts to utility revenue
 - Public health / line flushing increases
 - Statutory authority to adopt rule
 - Economic impact to nurseries and growers
 - Unfunded mandates to local govt
 - Exempt AWS users, or sliding scale for incentive irrigation days
 - Geographic specific comments:
 - Central Florida & Lower West Coast – 2 days
 - Lower East Coast & Upper East Coast – 3 days

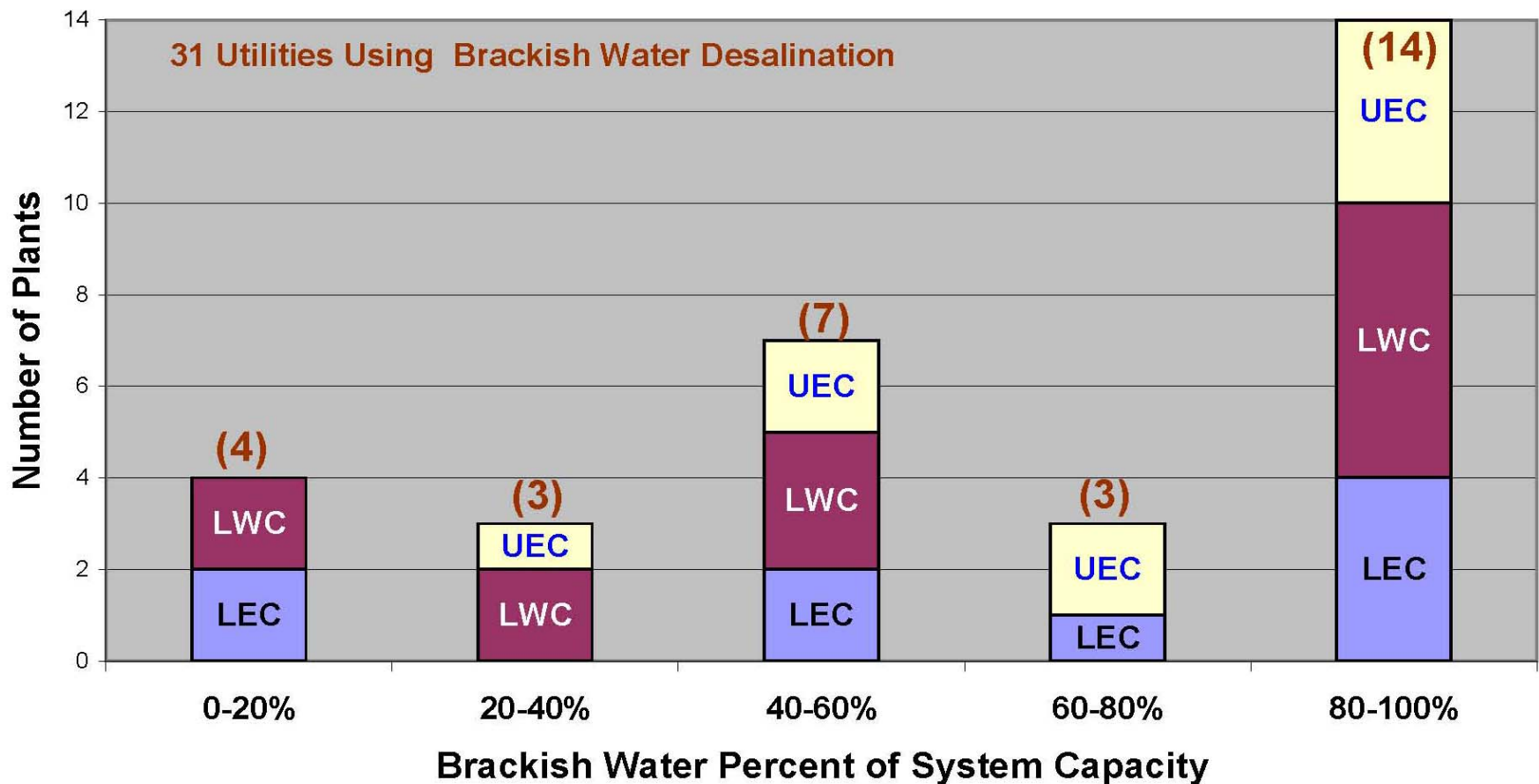
Outstanding Issue: Alternative Water Sources

- Allow irrigation flexibility if using other alternative water sources: 3 days per week
- Outstanding issue – what % AWS qualifies?



Outstanding Issue: Alternative Water Sources

Percent of Brackish Water Desalination Capacity versus Total Treatment Capacity for Water Plants in the SFWMD through 2008



Outstanding Issue: Alternative Water Sources

- Incentive of increased irrigation flexibility
- Recognize significant capital investment
- AWS utilities reduce impacts on traditional sources

Staff Recommendation:

**Allow irrigation up to 3 days per week
for utilities with \geq 40% Alternative
Water Supply installed capacity**



Outstanding Issue: Use of Supplemented Reclaimed Water

- Outstanding issue: if supplemented with traditional source water, what % applies ?
- Review shows supplemental water is a very minor component of reclaimed – typically to meet peak demands
- Need to encourage reclaimed water

Staff Recommendation:

Treat 100% reclaimed & supplemented reclaimed water the same (any day of the week, no 10am-4 pm)



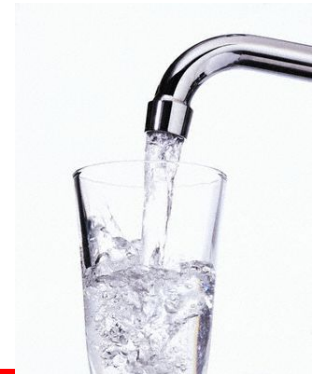
Public Comment: Economic Impact of Proposed Rule

- Rulemaking statute “encourages” but does not require preparation of an economic impact statement for proposed rules
- Given concerns raised by numerous utilities & others regarding economic issues, staff is moving forward with preparation of a *“Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs”*
- Estimated completion: early August



Public Comment: Statutory Authority

**Indoor uses:
Exempt by Statute**



Public Comment: Statutory Authority



**Indoor uses:
Exempt by Statute**



**Outdoor uses:
Exempt by Rule**



Public Comment: Statutory Authority



**Indoor uses:
Exempt by Statute**



**Outdoor uses:
~~Exempt by Rule~~
General Permit by Rule**



Proposed Amendments to Chapter 40E-2, 40E-20, F.A.C & Basis of Review

- Companion amendments to Chapter 40E-24
- Replace exemption with a “No Notice General Permit by Rule” for outdoor residential water use
- Essentially invisible change to homeowners – no permit application
- Apply reasonable-beneficial criteria to residential landscape irrigation



Proposed Amendments to Chapter 40E-2, 40E-20, F.A.C & Basis of Review

Staff Recommendation:

(Thursday Consent Agenda Item #20)

Authorize publication of a Notice of Rule Development in the Florida Administrative Weekly to amend Chapter 40E-2, 40E-20 F.A.C., and the Basis of Review for Water Use Permit Applications to create a General Permit by Rule for outdoor residential consumptive use of water and amend water conservation requirements consistent with ongoing rule amendments for mandatory year-round landscape irrigation measures of Chapter 40E-24, F.A.C.



Proposed Timeline

- July – Additional public workshops based on Governing Board direction
- August – Complete “Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs”
- August/Sept – Request rulemaking authority on amendments to 40E-24, F.A.C. and 40E2, 40E-20 & Basis of Review
- Oct/Nov – Rule adoption



Board Discussion

- Include 3 days per week irrigation flexibility for utilities with $\geq 40\%$ AWS
- Include supplemented reclaimed water in provisions for 7 days per week irrigation
- Replace exemption for domestic outdoor water use with a No Notice General Permit
- Other



Questions & Comments

Thank You

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Background

- IFAS info indicates that lawn irrigation needs are met with 2-day-per-week watering.*
 - “Light, frequent watering is inefficient and encourages shallow root systems. Excessive irrigation, which keeps the root system saturated with water, is also harmful to the lawn.”
 - “With no rainfall, two to three waterings per week in the summer and one every 10 to 14 days in the winter are adequate. If rainfall occurs, irrigation should be suspended until visible drought symptoms appear.”

* From: *Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes* – Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida

